

Members

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Rep. Cindy Noe
Sen. Connie Lawson
Sen. Vi Simpson
Loretta Kroin
Kathleen O'Connell
Stacey Cornett
Margie Payne
Ronda Ames
Valerie N. Markley
Bryan Lett
Caroline Doebbling
Kurt Carlson
Chris Taelman
Jane Horn
Dr. Danita Johnson-Hughes



COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 4, 2008
Meeting Time: 9:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. Charlie Brown, Chairperson; Rep. Cindy Noe; Sen. Connie Lawson; Sen. Vi Simpson; Stacey Cornett; Margie Payne; Ronda Ames; Valerie N. Markley; Bryan Lett; Kurt Carlson; Chris Taelman; Jane Horn; Dr. Danita Johnson-Hughes.

Members Absent: Loretta Kroin; Kathleen O'Connell; Caroline Doebbling.

(1) Call to Order and Introductions:

Representative Charlie Brown, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. He introduced Dr. Danita Johnson-Hughes to the Commission. Dr. Hughes was appointed to the Commission September 3, 2008, and is filling an at-large position that was previously vacated. Chairperson Brown also read a letter of resignation from Ms.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Abby Flynn.

(2) Discussion of Mental Health Issues Concerning Children

(A) Ms. Cathy Boggs, Director of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA), reported to the Commission on children's mental health services. (Exhibits 1, 2, and 3) In response to a question from Chairperson Brown, Ms. Boggs stated that the grants for services for children provided under the community services grant program were made to those counties that already had programs. Ms. Boggs said that DMHA plans to include an adolescent unit as part of the plan to rebuild LaRue Carter Hospital. DMHA is also considering rebuilding Evansville Children's Psychiatric Hospital and hopes to include programs for adolescent girls similar to a program DMHA has at Richmond State Hospital under which services are provided for adolescent boys. In response to questions from Rep. Noe, Ms. Boggs indicated that DMHA tries to involve families in all plans for children. Not all families participate, but all families have the opportunity.

(B) Judge James Payne, Director, Department of Child Services (DCS), discussed four areas concerning DCS with the Commission. First, DCS has been working to build a better model for providing services. In doing that, DCS has looked at the needs of children and their families. The decision was made to build the model for delivery of services based on the model used by the State Police with 18 districts. Each DCS district contains between four and nine counties. Marion and Lake Counties each comprise one of the 18 districts. DCS has also increased the number of case managers with over 1,600 new case managers. Second, the Department, to better identify the needs of families, has changed the frequency of visits to homes by case managers from every 60 days to every 30 days. Third, the Department is working closely with DMHA and the Department of Education (DOE) to better identify children with mental health needs. Finally, the passage of HEA 1001 in 2008 provides historic opportunities to determine how services should be provided to children in Indiana.

(C) Ms. Nancy Zemaitis, Assistant Director, Center for Exceptional Learners of DOE, provided the Commission with information concerning programs DOE has to assist children with emotional disabilities. (Exhibit 4) Over the last two years there has been a large drop in the amount of Medicaid reimbursement received by schools. In response to questions from Chairperson Brown and Senators Lawson and Simpson, Ms. Zemaitis will provide the Commission with more information concerning the decline in the amount of Medicaid assistance schools are seeking at the October 21 meeting of the Commission.

(D) Dr. Greg Wilson, Riley Hospital, discussed issues Riley encounters meeting the mental health needs of its patients. (Exhibit 5) Dr. Wilson stated that twenty percent of children and adolescents have some form of mental illness and that suicide is the third leading cause of death among teenagers. Dr. Wilson recommended several changes to make more mental health services available to children and adolescents. (Please refer to the last page of Exhibit 5 for the recommendations.) In response to questions from Chairperson Brown, Dr. Wilson said that the shortage of child psychiatrists and psychologists is definitely a problem. Dr. Wilson also said that there is a shortage of developmental residents.

(E) Chairperson Brown provided the Commission members with copies of an e-mail he received from Dr. Christopher McDougale following up on his presentation concerning the shortage of psychiatrists in Indiana at the first meeting of the Commission. (Exhibit 6)

(3) Parity in CHIP Funding for Children's Mental Health Services

Ms. Amy Flack, Kreig DeVault, LLP, discussed issues of parity with Medicaid and CHIP for funding of children's mental health services. (Exhibits 7 and 8)

(4) Update from the Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers

Mr. Matt Brooks, Executive Director of the Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers, made a presentation on the state of community mental health centers in Indiana. (Exhibit 9) In response to questions from Chairperson Brown, Mr. Brooks stated that the centers are dealing with issue of shortages in psychiatrists and psychologists in the state. In some areas, the psychiatrists and psychologists float among several facilities.

(5) Family Perspective on Mental Health Care in Indiana

Ms. Teresa Hatten, President of NAMI Indiana, Inc., discussed issues relating to mental health services and provided the members with a fact sheet on mental health. (Exhibit 10 and 11)

(6) Report on the Integration Segment of the Transformation Plan

Ms. Lisa Winternheimer, President and CEO of the Indiana Primary Health Care Association, presented the members with information concerning the Transformation Work Group covering integration of behavioral health and primary care. (Exhibit 12)

(7) Other Business

The next meeting of the Commission will be September 23, at 1:00 P.M. in Room 404 of the State House. The fourth meeting will be October 21, at 1:00 P.M. in Room 404 of the State House.

Prior to his departure, Chairperson Brown asked that anyone who wanted legislative proposals to provide them to Susan Kennell prior to the September 23 meeting of the Commission. Proposals can be forwarded to Susan Kennell, Legislative Services Agency, 301 State House, Indianapolis, IN 24604, or can be sent by e-mail to skennell@iga.state.in.us. The FAX number is 317-232-2554.

Senator Connie Lawson, Acting Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 12:00 P.M.